

2SHB 3141 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-5161.3/10) 1134

By Representative Hinkle

NOT ADOPTED 2/14/2010

1 On page 1, beginning on line 5 of the striking amendment, after
2 "that" strike all material through "implementation." on page 5, line
3 34 and insert "state implementation of the historic federal personal
4 responsibility and work opportunity act of 1996 through the
5 Washington WorkFirst program created by Chapter 58, Laws of 1997 has
6 achieved successes for participants in meeting the program goals of
7 caseload reduction, reduced recidivism to public assistance, job
8 retention, increased earnings, and placement into private sector,
9 unsubsidized jobs.

10 (2) The legislature also finds that since the state enacted
11 welfare reform, the number of families on welfare in Washington has
12 dropped by more than fifty-one percent from its peak prior to
13 reform. The legislature further finds that as of 2008, WorkFirst,
14 compared to the program it replaced, had significantly increased the
15 likelihood of employment by welfare clients; increased average
16 earnings; reduced child poverty; and resulted in clients being much
17 more likely to remain off welfare a year after exiting the program.

18 (3) After more than a decade of experience with WorkFirst, the
19 legislature reaffirms its intent under RCW 74.08A.200 RCW that all
20 applicants to the Washington WorkFirst program shall be focused on
21 obtaining paid, unsubsidized employment, and that the focus of the
22 Washington WorkFirst program shall be work for all recipients.

23 (4) The legislature recognizes the importance of appropriate
24 educational and job training activities in achieving successful
25 outcomes for many WorkFirst clients, and the continued need for
26 subsidized child care to move the lowest income parents toward
27 economic independence.

1 (5) The legislature finds that after more than ten years of
2 declining or flat caseloads, even during the prior economic
3 recession, the number of persons enrolled in WorkFirst has increased
4 as economic conditions deteriorated during the last two years. The
5 legislature finds there is a need to improve and accelerate efforts
6 to meet the program goal of placing clients in unsubsidized
7 employment, with necessary and appropriate educational and job
8 training and support.

9

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The Washington WorkFirst subcabinet, in consultation with
13 the governor, shall evaluate the WorkFirst program to assess its
14 performance in meeting the goals and performance measures
15 established in chapter 74.08A RCW. In conducting its evaluation,
16 the WorkFirst subcabinet shall review the recommendations of the
17 WorkFirst reexamination work group prepared for the governor and the
18 members of the WorkFirst subcabinet in October 2005; measure the
19 implementation of those recommendations; and identify the
20 effectiveness of those recommendations in meeting stated program
21 goals and outcomes.

22 (2) The Washington WorkFirst subcabinet shall report to the
23 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010. The
24 report shall include any recommendations, based on the evaluation of
25 the program required under subsection (1) of this section, for
26 program changes and the reallocation of resources, including any
27 legislation that may be required for implementation."

28

EFFECT: Removes all elements of the striking amendment. Adds Legislative findings relating to the success of the WorkFirst program in meeting program goals and outcomes, and the recent economic downturn that has created the need to improve and accelerate efforts to place clients in unsubsidized employment. Declares Legislative intent to reaffirm previously stated legislative intent of the WorkFirst program in focusing on work for all recipients. Directs the WorkFirst subcabinet, in

consultation with the governor, to evaluate the program and assess its performance in meeting the goals stated in chapter 74.08A RCW. Also requires reviewing the recommendations of the 2005 WorkFirst Reexamination Work Group; measuring the implementation of those recommendations; and identifying the effectiveness of those recommendations in meeting the stated program goals and outcomes. Requires a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2010, with any recommendations for program changes, reallocation of resources, and legislative changes.

--- END ---